

## ON THE SYZYGIES OF QUASI-COMPLETE INTERSECTION SPACE CURVES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we discuss minimal free resolutions of the homogeneous ideals of quasi-complete intersection space curves. We show that if  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , then  $I_X$  has a minimal free resolution

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu-3} S(d_{i+3} + c_1) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{2\mu-4} S(-e_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu} S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $d_i, e_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $c_1 = -d_1 - d_2 - d_3$ . Therefore the ranks of the first and the second syzygy modules are determined by the number of elements in a minimal generating set of  $I_X$ . Also we give a relation for the degrees of syzygy modules of  $I_X$ . Using this theorem, one can construct a smooth quasi-complete intersection curve  $X$  such that the number of minimal generators of  $I_X$  is  $t$  for any given positive integer  $t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

### 1. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $X$  be a nondegenerate locally Cohen-Macaulay irreducible curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , defined over an algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic 0. A curve  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  is said to be a monomial curve if it has a parametric representation of the form  $(t_0^{n_3}, t_0^{n_3-n_1}t_1^{n_1}, t_0^{n_3-n_2}t_1^{n_2}, t_1^{n_3})$  where  $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $\text{g.c.d.}(n_1, n_2, n_3) = 1$ . Let  $I_X \subset S = K[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$  be the homogeneous ideal of a monomial curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  and let  $\mu(I_X)$  be the number of elements in a minimal generating set of  $I_X$ . In his paper ([2]), Bresinsky proves that if  $\mu(I_X) = \mu \geq 3$ , then  $I_X$  has the following minimal free resolution:

$$0 \rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^{\mu-3} S(-d_{3,j}) \rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^{2\mu-4} S(-d_{2,j}) \rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^{\mu} S(-d_{1,j}) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $d_{i,j} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore the ranks of the first and the second syzygy modules of the homogeneous ideals of *monomial curves* in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  are determined by the number of elements in a minimal generating set of  $I_X$ . In this paper, we give a similar result for quasi-complete intersection space curves. Here, a curve  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  is a

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quasi-complete intersection if it is locally Cohen-Macaulay and is cut out scheme-theoretically by three hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . In other words, the sheaf of the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_X$  of a quasi-complete intersection space curve  $X$  has an exact sequence

$$(1.1) \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-d_i) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{E}$  is a kernel of  $\varphi$  and  $d_1, d_2, d_3$  are the degrees of the hypersurfaces defining  $X$ . Note that  $\mathcal{E}$  is a rank 2 vector bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^3$  because  $X$  is locally Cohen-Macaulay. A curve  $X$  is called a quasi-complete intersection curve of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  if  $X$  is defined scheme-theoretically by three surfaces  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  of degrees  $d_1, d_2, d_3$  in  $I_X$  with  $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq d_3$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  be a quasi-complete intersection space curve of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  and assume that the homogeneous ideal  $I_X$  of  $X$  has a minimal free resolution*

$$(1.2) \quad 0 \rightarrow L_2 \rightarrow L_1 \rightarrow L_0 \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $L_i$  is a free  $S$ -module of rank  $\mu_i$  for each  $i = 0, 1, 2$ . Then  $\mu_2 = \mu_0 - 3$  and  $\mu_1 = 2\mu_0 - 4$ . Furthermore,  $L_0 = \text{Hom}(L_2, S)(c) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^3 S(-d_i))$  and  $L_1 \simeq \text{Hom}(L_1, S)(c)$  where  $c = -d_1 - d_2 - d_3$ .

To prove Theorem 1.1, we use results on the first cohomology group of a rank two vector bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a rank two vector bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^3$  and let  $M_{\mathcal{E}} = H_*^1(\mathcal{E})$ . Assume that  $M_{\mathcal{E}}$  has the following minimal free resolution over  $S = K[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3]$ :

$$0 \rightarrow M_4 \rightarrow M_3 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow M_0 \rightarrow M_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $\text{rank } M_0 = s$  and  $\text{rank } M_1 = t$ . Decker and Rao ([5], Proposition 1, and [12], Corollary 2.3) independently show that  $t = 2s + 2$ ; i.e., the rank of the first syzygy module is determined by the number of minimal generators of  $M_{\mathcal{E}}$ . Furthermore Decker gives in his paper ([5]) sufficient conditions for having a cohomology module of a rank 2 vector bundle, i.e., that there exist isomorphisms  $\Phi : M_1^*(c_1) \simeq M_1$  and  $M_2 \simeq M_2' \oplus M_0^*(c_1)$  such that the composition  $M_0^*(c_1) \xrightarrow{\sigma} M_1^*(c_1) \xrightarrow{\Phi} M_1 \rightarrow M_0$  is a trivial morphism. We show in Theorem 1.1 that the morphism  $\sigma$  induces a syzygy module morphism  $L_2 \rightarrow L_1$ . Here,  $c_1(=: c_1(\mathcal{E}))$  is the first Chern class of a vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $M_0^*(=: \text{Hom}(M_0, S))$  is an  $S$ -dual module of  $M_0$ .

This paper is organized in the following way: In section 2, we prove Theorem 1.1 and give several corollaries. One of these is the characterization of quasi-complete intersections whose ideals are generated by four homogeneous polynomials. We show that the ideal of  $X$  is generated by four elements if and only if the Hartshorne-Rao module  $M_X$  is a ‘‘complete intersection’’ graded  $S$ -module with one generator, i.e.,  $M \simeq S(-d)/(f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4)$  where  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4$  is a regular sequence and  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

In section 3, we present a couple of examples and open questions. In particular, for any positive integer  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , one can construct a smooth quasi-complete intersection curve  $X$  such that the number of minimal generators of  $I_X$  is  $t$ .

*Notation.* Let  $\mu(M)$  be the number of minimal generators of a finitely generated  $S$ -module  $M$ . For a curve  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ , we denote the Hartshorne-Rao module by  $M_X$ , i.e.,  $M_X := H_*^1(\mathcal{I}_X)$ ; and for a coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$ , we write  $H_*^i(\mathcal{F}) = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} H^i(\mathcal{F}(k))$ . Also, note that  $M^* = \text{Hom}(M, S)$  and  $M^\vee = \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Hom}([M]_{-j}, K)$ .

2. THEOREM AND COROLLARIES

To prove Theorem 1.1, we need a nice theorem of Rao.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $X$  be a curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  and let  $M_X$  be its deficiency module, i.e.,  $M_X = H_*^1(\mathcal{I}_X)$ . Assume that  $M_X$  has a minimal free resolution*

$$0 \rightarrow L_4 \xrightarrow{\sigma_4} L_3 \rightarrow L_2 \rightarrow L_1 \rightarrow L_0 \rightarrow M_X \rightarrow 0.$$

Then  $\mathcal{I}_X$  has a minimal free resolution of the form

$$0 \rightarrow L_4 \xrightarrow{(\sigma_4, 0)} L_3 \oplus \oplus_{i=1}^r S(-l_i) \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^m S(-e_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0$$

for some integers  $e_i, l_i, r, m$ .

*Proof.* See [13], Theorem 2.5. □

*Remark 2.2.* Note that if  $X$  is minimal in its even liaison class with respect to degree, then it can furthermore be shown that the direct summand  $\oplus_{i=1}^r S(-l_i)$  in Theorem 2.1 does not occur ([10]). One can see in the following proof of Theorem 1.1 that this is also true for a quasi-complete intersection curve  $X$  in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  (Corollary 2.6).

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Since  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection, we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-d_i) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{E}$  is a kernel of  $\varphi$  which is a rank 2 vector bundle. By the results of ([1], Proposition 1) and ([3], Theorem 1.6), the set of scheme-theoretic generators of  $X$  always extends to a set of minimal generators of the homogeneous ideal  $\mathcal{I}_X$  of  $X$ . This set of minimal generators of  $\mathcal{I}_X$  gives a surjective homomorphism  $\oplus_{i=1}^\mu S(-d_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0$  where  $\mu$  is the number of minimal generators of  $\mathcal{I}_X$ . Taking a sheafification, we obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \oplus_{i=1}^\mu \mathcal{O}_X(-d_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0,$$

with  $H_*^1(\mathcal{F}) = 0$ . Since  $X$  is locally Cohen-Macaulay, the coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  is locally free of rank  $\mu - 1$ . These two exact sequences give the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{E} & \rightarrow & \oplus_{i=1}^3 \mathcal{O}_X(-d_i) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \rightarrow & \oplus_{i=1}^\mu \mathcal{O}_X(-d_i) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \oplus_{i=4}^\mu \mathcal{O}_X(-d_i) & \rightarrow & \oplus_{i=4}^\mu \mathcal{O}_X(-d_i) & & \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ & & 0 & & 0 & & \end{array}$$

If we take global sections on the first column, we get the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E \rightarrow H_*^0(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \oplus_{i=4}^\mu S(-d_i) \xrightarrow{\psi} M_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $E = H_*^0(\mathcal{E})$  and  $M_{\mathcal{E}} = H_*^1(\mathcal{E})$ .

By Peterson's theorem ([11], Theorem 6.4.17),  $\mu(\mathcal{I}_X) - \mu(M_X^\vee) = 3$  where  $M_X^\vee = \oplus_j \text{Hom}([H_*^2(\mathcal{E})]_{-j}, K)$ . Since  $M_X^\vee = \oplus_j H^1(\mathcal{E}(-c_1 - 4 + j)) = M_{\mathcal{E}}(-c_1 - 4)$  and

$\mu(I_X) = \mu$ , we have  $\mu(M_{\mathcal{E}}) = (\mu - 3)$ . Therefore the morphism  $\psi$  is minimal and one has a minimal free resolution,

$$(2.1) \quad 0 \rightarrow L_4 \rightarrow L_3 \rightarrow L_2 \rightarrow L_1 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=4}^{\mu} S(-d_i) \rightarrow M_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow 0.$$

By the theorem of Rao and Decker ([5], [12]), the rank of the free module  $L_1$  is  $2\mu - 4$  and  $L_1^*(c_1) \simeq L_1$  where  $c_1$  is the first Chern class of the vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$ . Also, in the exact sequence in ([12], Corollary 2.3), one has a surjection  $L_1^*(c_1) \rightarrow H_*^0(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow 0$ .

Since  $H_*^1(\mathcal{F}) = 0$ , from the exact sequence in the second row of the above diagram, we have

$$0 \rightarrow F_2 \rightarrow L_1^*(c_1) \xrightarrow{\phi} \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu} S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $F_2$  is a kernel of the morphism  $\phi$ . If  $\text{depth } S/I_X = 2$ ,  $F_2 = 0$ . Otherwise,  $\text{depth } S/I_X = 1$  and the projective dimension of  $I_X$  is two by the Auslander-Buchsbaum theorem. Therefore  $F_2$  is a free module. By Serre duality, we have  $M_{\mathcal{E}}^{\vee} \simeq M_X(-c_1 - 4) \simeq H_*^2(\mathcal{E})(-c_1 - 4) \simeq \text{Ext}_S^4(M_{\mathcal{E}}, S)(-4)$ , and dualizing the exact sequence (2.1),  $M_X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow (\bigoplus_{i=4}^{\mu} S(-d_i))^* \rightarrow L_1^* \rightarrow L_2^* \rightarrow L_3^* \rightarrow L_4^* \rightarrow M_X(-c_1) \rightarrow 0.$$

By Theorem 2.1, the homogeneous ideal  $I_X$  of  $X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow (\bigoplus_{i=4}^{\mu} S(-d_i))^*(c_1) \rightarrow L_1^*(c_1) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu} S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0.$$

□

Our first application of Theorem 1.1 is a characterization of quasi-complete intersections whose ideals are generated by four elements. A quasi-complete intersection whose ideal is generated by two elements is a complete intersection, and a quasi-complete intersection whose ideal is generated by three elements is arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay. The geometry of these curves is well-known. Now we characterize quasi-complete intersections whose ideals are generated by four elements.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Assume that  $M$  is a “complete intersection” graded  $S$ -module with one generator, i.e.,  $M \simeq S(-d_{0,1})/(f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4)$  where  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4$  is a regular sequence and  $d_{0,1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then,  $M$  has the minimal free resolution*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow S(d_{4,1}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-d_{3,i}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^6 S(-d_{2,i}) \\ \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-d_{1,i}) \rightarrow S(-d_{0,1}) \xrightarrow{\psi} M \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

for some  $d_{i,j} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* This is a Koszul complex and is exact since  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4$  is a regular sequence. □

**Corollary 2.4.** *Among all quasi-complete intersections with  $\mu(X) \geq 4$ ,  $\mu(X) = 4$  if and only if the Hartshorne-Rao module  $M_X$  is a “complete intersection” module.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  with  $\mu(X) = 4$ . By Theorem 1.1,  $I_X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow S(d_4 - d_1 - d_2 - d_3) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-e_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

for some integers  $e_i$  and  $d_4$ . Then, by Theorem 2.1, the Hartshorne-Rao module  $M_X$  of  $X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow L_4 \rightarrow L_3 \rightarrow L_2 \rightarrow L_1 \rightarrow L_0 \rightarrow M_X \rightarrow 0,$$

with  $\text{rank } L_4 = 1$  and  $\text{rank } L_3 = 4$ . Dualizing the exact sequence, we get

$$0 \rightarrow L_0^* \rightarrow L_1^* \rightarrow L_2^* \rightarrow L_3^* \rightarrow L_4^* \rightarrow \text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S) \rightarrow 0.$$

This gives that  $\text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S)$  is a complete intersection module with one generator because  $\text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S)$  is a finite module. By Lemma 2.3,  $\text{rank } L_0 = 1$  and  $\text{rank } L_1 = 4$ , and it follows that  $M_X$  is a complete intersection module with one generator.

Assume that  $M_X$  is a complete intersection module with one generator. Then  $M_X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow L_0^* \rightarrow L_1^* \rightarrow L_2^* \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(e_i) \rightarrow S(-d) \rightarrow M_X \rightarrow 0.$$

By Lemma 2.3,  $\text{rank } L_0 = 1$ ,  $\text{rank } L_1 = 4$  and  $\text{rank } L_2 = 6$ . By Theorem 1.1,

$$0 \rightarrow L_0^* \rightarrow L_1^* \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-f_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0$$

for some  $f_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore, we get  $\mu(X) = 4$ . □

If  $X$  is a subcanonical quasi-complete intersection and  $M_X$  is generated by one element, then  $M_X$  is a complete intersection module with one generator and by Corollary (2.4),  $\mu(I_X) = 4$ . One can compare this result to the following theorem of Bresinsky, Schenzel, and Vogel.

**Theorem 2.5** ([4], Theorem 2). *Let  $X$  be a Buchsbaum, non-arithmetically Cohen-Macaulay curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Let  $N = \dim M_X$ . If  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection, then  $\mu(I_X) = 4$  and  $N = 1$ .*

Also, note that by Rao’s theorem ([12], Corollary 3.1) and Decker’s theorem ([5], Proposition 1),  $\text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S)$  in the proof of Corollary 2.4 is a first cohomology module of a rank two vector bundle.

Another application of Theorem 1.1 is that if  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection curve of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$ , then one can bound the degree of minimal generators of  $I_X$  in terms of  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$ . This bound is sharp as the homogeneous ideal of a twisted cubic curve is generated by quadric polynomials.

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $X$  be a quasi-complete intersection curve of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  with deficiency module  $M_X$ . Assume that  $M_X$  has a minimal free resolution*

$$(2.2) \quad 0 \rightarrow L_4 \xrightarrow{\sigma_4} L_3 \rightarrow L_2 \rightarrow L_1 \rightarrow L_0 \rightarrow M_X \rightarrow 0.$$

Then  $I_X$  has a minimal free resolution of the form

$$0 \rightarrow L_4 \xrightarrow{\sigma_4} L_3 \rightarrow L_4^*(c_1) \oplus (\bigoplus_{i=1}^3 S(-d_i)) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $c_1 = -(d_1 + d_2 + d_3)$ .

*Proof.* This is clear from the proof of Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 2.1. □

**Corollary 2.7.** *If  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection curve of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , then the homogeneous ideal  $I_X$  is generated by homogeneous polynomials of degree  $\leq d_1 + d_2 - 2$ .*

*Proof.* By Theorem 1.1,  $I_X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu-3} S(d_{i+3} + c_1) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{2\mu-4} S(-e_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\mu} S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0.$$

Let  $m_1 = \max\{d_i\}$ ,  $m_2 = \min\{d_i\}$  and  $n_1 = \max\{e_i\}$ . It is well-known that the minimal degree of the hypersurface containing a quasi-complete intersection  $X$  of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  is  $d_3$ , i.e.,  $m_2 = d_3$  ([1]). By ([7], page 304), we have  $m_1 < n_1$ . On the other hand, we get  $n_1 < -(c_1 + m_2)$  since the dual of the exact sequence (2.2)

is also a minimal free resolution of  $\text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S)$  and the minimal twisting numbers of syzygy modules are increasing. Therefore, we have

$$m_1 \leq -c_1 - d_3 - 2 = (d_1 + d_2) - 2.$$

□

Finally, one can consider Theorem 1.1 as a generalization of the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.8.** *If  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  defined by three surfaces  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  in  $I_X$  of degrees  $d_1, d_2, d_3$ , then we have*

$$M_X^\vee(4) \simeq \text{Ext}_S^4(M_X, S) \simeq I_X/(f_1, f_2, f_3)(d_1 + d_2 + d_3)$$

as an  $S$ -module.

*Proof.* See ([13], page 215) or ([4], page 289). □

Corollary 2.8 just gives an isomorphism between two  $S$ -modules  $M_X^\vee(4)$  and  $I_X/(f_1, f_2, f_3)(d_1 + d_2 + d_3)$ . Theorem 1.1 states that if  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection, then a minimal free resolution of the homogeneous ideal  $I_X$  is determined by a minimal free resolution of the Hartshorne-Rao module  $M_X$ .

### 3. EXAMPLES AND OPEN QUESTIONS

**Example 3.1.** Let  $X$  be a Buchsbaum curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  with  $H^1(\mathcal{I}_X(k)) \neq 0$  for some integer  $k$ . If  $X$  is defined scheme-theoretically by three surfaces  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  of degrees  $d_1, d_2, d_3$  in  $I_X$ , then  $\dim(M_X) = 1$  and the number of minimal generators of  $I_X$  is 4 ([11]). Therefore, by Theorem 1.1, the homogeneous ideal  $I_X$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$0 \rightarrow S(d_4 - d_1 - d_2 - d_3) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-e_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0,$$

for some integers  $e_i$  and  $d_4$ .

**Example 3.2.** Let  $X$  be a smooth elliptic curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  of degree  $t + 4$ . Since  $\omega_X = \mathcal{O}_X$ ,  $X$  is the zero locus of a section of a rank two vector bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathbb{P}^3$  with  $c_1(\mathcal{F}) = 4$  and  $c_2(\mathcal{F}) = t + 4$  ([12], Example 3.5, and [8], (4.3.3)). If  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{F}(-2)$ , we have

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(-4) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(-2) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_X \rightarrow 0.$$

Since  $H^1(\mathcal{P}^3, \mathcal{I}_X(l)) = 0$  for  $l \leq 0$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  is a mathematical instanton bundle. Since  $H^1(\mathcal{E}(-1)) = H^1(\mathcal{I}_X(1)) = t$ ,  $M_{\mathcal{E}}$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$\bigoplus S(-d_i) \rightarrow S^{\oplus 2t+2} \rightarrow S(1)^{\oplus t} \rightarrow M_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow 0.$$

By Theorem 2.5 in [6], a residual  $Y$  of  $X$  in a complete intersection of two surfaces of degrees  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  is a quasi-complete intersection of type  $(d_1 + d_2 - 4, d_1, d_2)$ . By Theorem 1.1, the homogeneous ideal  $I_Y$  has a minimal free resolution,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^t S(f_i + c_1) &\rightarrow L_1 \\ &\rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^t S(-f_i) \oplus S(-d_1) \oplus S(-d_2) \oplus S(-d_1 - d_2 + 4) \rightarrow I_Y \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_1 = -(2d_1 + 2d_2 - 4)$  and  $f_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore, for any given number  $t$ , one can construct a quasi-complete intersection curve  $Y$  in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  such that the number of minimal generators of  $I_Y$  is  $t$ .

Prof. Schenzel raises the following questions:

**Question 3.3.** Bresinsky's work ([2]) and Theorem 1.1 determine the structure of the minimal free resolutions of homogeneous ideals  $I_X$  of monomial curves and quasi-complete intersections. What is the common generalization of monomial curves and quasi-complete intersections? How do we enlarge the classes of varieties which have the same type of minimal free resolutions as in Theorem 1.1?

For example, one of the nice properties of monomial curves is the following:

**Theorem 3.4** ([4], Theorem 3). *Let  $X$  be a monomial curve in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  over an algebraically closed field  $K$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mu(I_X) = 4$  and  $X$  lies on a quadric.
- (2) There is an integer  $n \geq 1$  such that the minimal free resolution of  $S/I_X$  has the form

$$0 \rightarrow S(-2n-3) \rightarrow S^4(-2n-2) \rightarrow S(-2) \oplus S^3(-2n-1) \rightarrow S \rightarrow S/I_X \rightarrow 0.$$

On the other hand, by Corollary 2.4, if  $X$  is a quasi-complete intersection of type  $(d_1, d_2, d_3)$  with  $\mu(I_X) = 4$ , then  $I_X$  has the following minimal free resolution:

$$0 \rightarrow S(d_4 - d_1 - d_2 - d_3) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-e_i) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 S(-d_i) \rightarrow I_X \rightarrow 0$$

for some integers  $e_i$  and  $d_4$ .

Therefore, it would also be very interesting to know whether there exists a monomial curve  $X$  that has  $\mu(I_X) = 4$  but is not a quasi-complete intersection.

**Question 3.5.** How can we characterize the monomial curves in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  that are quasi-complete intersections?

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